

Iran wants \$90 billion from Iraq

LONDON (R) — Iran is demanding about \$90 billion in "war reparations" from Iraq for damage to its public sector in fighting up to last September, the national news agency IRNA said Saturday. A book published by Iran's planning and budget organisation gives for the first time a breakdown of some of the payments Iran is seeking as a precondition to end the 32-month-old Gulf war. IRNA said reparations for loss of life and damage to private sector had not been assessed. The biggest single sum being sought is \$33.5 billion for damage to Iran's oil industry. It also wants \$21.5 billion for agriculture, \$15.81 billion for "revolutionary organisations" and \$2.84 billion for the power industry. In the past, the Tehran-based agency has demanded \$150 billion from Baghdad as a condition for starting peace talks on ending the war.

الجزيرة

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The Jordan Times...

will not appear on Monday, May 9, due to the Easter holiday. Our next issue will be on Tuesday, May 10. We wish all our readers and advertisers a happy Easter.

PLO seeks meeting on S. Lebanon killings

DAMASCUS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Saturday urged the Soviet Union to call for an urgent meeting of the U.N. Security Council to discuss the killing of Palestinians in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) news agency Wafa reported. It said the plea was made in a message handed by Arafat to the Soviet ambassador to Syria, Vladimir Yonkhine. Lebanese newspapers reported on Thursday that unidentified gunmen shot and killed three Palestinians in two incidents in southern Lebanon, the latest in a series of unexplained killings.

Qatar raises fuel prices by 260%

DOHA (R) — The Gulf state of Qatar raised prices of petrol and other fuels by up to 260 per cent. The National Oil Distribution Company said premium petrol would rise by 67 per cent to 60 dirhams (16.4 cents) a litre and regular grade by 140 per cent to 55 dirhams (15 cents). Diesel and kerosene would rise by more than 260 per cent to 55 dirhams (15 cents) and 40 dirhams (11 cents) respectively. It gave no reason for the sharp increases, which follow a 32 per cent rise in petrol prices in the neighbouring United Arab Emirates (UAE) last week.

Thailand gets new government

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda Saturday announced a new coalition of two major parties, a pro-army right-wing group and a small party led by former Premier Kriangsak Chomanan. The coalition government, formed 19 days after general elections last month, has a near two-thirds majority in the 324-seat house of representatives.

Iraq attacks Western trade protectionism

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Saturday blamed growing protectionism in the industrialised world for a slump in international trade and a global economic crisis. Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, addressing the Economic Commission for Western Asia, accused some industrialised nations of hindering efforts by developing states to restructure the world economy on an equitable basis.

U.S. ship fired on off Lebanese coast

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. Navy ship apparently came under attack off Beirut Saturday but suffered no casualties and did not return fire, the Defence Department said. A Pentagon spokesman said five artillery or mortar rounds landed within 500 metres of a U.S. support ship near the Lebanese capital. "The details we have are sketchy," the spokesman said, adding that the name of the ship was not immediately available.

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U.S. secretary leaves Damascus for Jeddah Syria unenthusiastic on Lebanon pullout accord, says Shultz

DAMASCUS (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Saturday Syria was unenthusiastic about an agreement for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon and this would hold up a planned parallel withdrawal of Syrian and Palestinian forces.

Israel, which Friday approved in principle a withdrawal plan thrashed out by Mr. Shultz on a 10-day shuttle between Lebanon and Israel, has said it will only pull out if there is also a Syrian pull back. "I think it is fair to say they (Syrians) are hardly enthusiastic about the agreement," Mr. Shultz told reporters after about four hours of talks here with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. But he said Syria was still open to negotiations. "The door is not slammed," he said. Mr. Shultz said Lebanon would now have to negotiate with Syria for an accord under which Damascus would agree to withdraw its troops along with remaining fighters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). In the light of Syria's attitude to the deal with Israel "my guess is that these will be very difficult negotiations," Mr. Shultz said. Asked how long the process

could take, he replied: "I can't make a prediction but it will take a little while." He said no one had expected a withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon to be achieved quickly but he expressed some optimism that it would be possible in the end. "In my judgment there are great incentives in this situation for people in the end to go along with it (the Israeli-Lebanese agreement)," the secretary of state said. "I think what this agreement yields is complete Israeli withdrawal and from the Arab standpoint obtaining complete Israeli withdrawal is a very important matter." Mr. Shultz declined to outline Syria's objections to the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, saying its position was well known. Syrian ministers and the government-controlled media have repeatedly stressed that Syr-

ian forces would not be withdrawn from Lebanon, which they entered in 1976 to end a civil war, unless there was a prior and total Israeli withdrawal. They have said Syria would not accept an agreement which gave Israel advantages gained from its invasion of Lebanon last year.

As Mr. Shultz began his meeting with Mr. Assad, Syrian state radio said the withdrawal agreement gave Israel military, economic, political and security gains. "It is a victory first for Israel, second for the United States and very last for Lebanon... this American effort will not be welcome or accepted in the Arab World," the radio said. Mr. Shultz had a cool reception when he arrived at Damascus airport Saturday morning from Amman, where he held talks with King Hussein. He was met by Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam, who made no customary welcoming speech and stood several metres away from the secretary of state as Mr. Shultz made a statement to reporters. Mr. Shultz flew out of Damascus at about 8:00 p.m. (1700 GMT) heading for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where he was scheduled to meet King Fahd.



A CLOSE CALL: Firefighters rescue one of the wounded in a blaze at the Hotel Washington in Istanbul Saturday. The latest death toll is 42 dead and 65 wounded. Rescue workers were still clearing the debris of the building Saturday night. Police said most of the victims of the blaze in the Laleli district of Istanbul were foreign tourists (A.P. wirephoto)

Jordan imposes new measures on travel from occupied lands

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan, in a bid to counter Israeli plans to evict Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories from their homeland, is adopting new measures to restrict the flow of residents of the West Bank to Jordan, according to a local newspaper Saturday. One of these measures, Al Rai newspaper said, is to allow a period of 30 days only for such visitors to stay in Jordan, after which they should return to the West Bank. West Bankers passing through Jordan en route to Saudi Arabia

and other Gulf states or travelling to Europe and the United States will be issued permits valid for three years, but must visit their homeland once every nine months to about Israel's attempts to confiscate their property in the West Bank," the paper said.

Permits granted by Jordan to visitors to the West Bank, will not be affected by the new measures. Regulations concerning students wishing to continue their studies at West Bank universities also remain unchanged.

Egypt welcomes Lebanon agreement

CAIRO (R) — Egypt Saturday welcomed the Lebanese-Israeli agreement on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon as a positive step towards a total Middle East settlement.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "Egypt has received with satisfaction reports of an agreement on the withdrawal of Israeli troops and hopes it will help Lebanon maintain full sovereignty over its territory."

The spokesman praised efforts of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on the conclusion of the agreement and said: "It will give great momentum to Middle East peace efforts to preserve the rights of the Palestinian people."

He expressed hopes the agreement would eventually lead to the withdrawal of other troops in Lebanon, referring to Syrian and Palestinian forces. "We urge all parties inside and outside Lebanon to consolidate the efforts of the Lebanese legitimate authorities in maintaining the country's national unity," the spokesman added.

GCC team off to Aden

BAHRAIN (R) — A Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) mission left for Aden Saturday to discuss how to bolster ties between Marxist South Yemen and the six-nation grouping, the official Saudi Press Agency said.

The mission, which will spend three days in Aden, was led by Ibrahim Al Sobhi, the Saudi-based council's assistant secretary-general for political affairs.

The Gulf Cooperation Council, grouping Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain, was formed two years ago.

The mission's objective appeared to be to follow up on the council's success in securing a rapprochement between South Yemen and Oman last October, when they signed an agreement ending 15 years of political feuding.

Syrian president to meet Fahd

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad will meet King Fahd of Saudi Arabia shortly, a presidential spokesman said in Damascus Saturday. The spokesman, quoted by the official Syrian news agency SANA, did not say where or when the meeting would take place. His statement, in reply to reporters' questions, came shortly after U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left Damascus for Saudi Arabia to discuss the withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian forces from Lebanon and other Middle East issues. The spokesman said the Assad-Fahd meeting had been arranged three weeks ago.

Shultz describes talks in Amman as 'very constructive'

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left Amman Saturday for Damascus after a one-day official visit to Jordan during which he held talks with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior Jordanian officials.

In a statement issued before his departure, Mr. Shultz described his talks with King Hussein as "very worthwhile, constructive," adding that "now is a moment not to lose heart or to flag in our efforts for Middle East peace."

The secretary, who headed a high-level U.S. delegation which included President Ronald Reagan's special Middle East envoy Philip Habib, Assistant Secretary of State Nicholas Veliotis and special negotiator Richard Fairbanks, also reaffirmed the Reagan administration's commitment to pursue peace efforts for the Middle East.

Mr. Shultz said that King Hussein reaffirmed Jordan's support for Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Following is the full text of Mr. Shultz's statement:

"I would like to express my appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein for receiving us. Last evening we had a very fine general meeting and I had the privilege of a private meeting with His Majesty and then he and the Queen who were both gracious in giving us a lovely dinner at their palace. So we were treated, you might say, royally, and we appreciate it. I think it was particularly noteworthy to me that His Majesty expressed to me, and on behalf of the president I expressed to him,

continued support for the peace process. It is something that must proceed. It is a moment of frustration and dilemma, but nevertheless not a moment to lose heart or to flag in our efforts. His Majesty asked me if that was the president's view and I said it certainly was. The president remains completely committed to pursuing this process.

Of course we discussed the Israeli-Lebanon agreement and what is developing in Lebanon. And it was also very good to hear His Majesty express his complete support for the government of Lebanon and that government's efforts to free itself of foreign forces and to become sovereign and in charge of its own territory again.

So, in summary, we had a fine meeting, very worthwhile and constructive and these two definite items of continued support for a most meaningful debate."

Foreign Minister Murwan Al Qasem who saw Mr. Shultz off at Amman airport also made a press statement stressing that Jordan "will pursue efforts to help Lebanon regain its sovereignty over its territory and achieve a total withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon."

"A withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon will reflect positively on the Middle East issue as a whole and will boost the chances for a durable and comprehensive Middle East solution," Mr. Qasem said.

Also seeing off Mr. Shultz were U.S. Ambassador Richard Viets, embassy staff and Jordanian officials.

'Irgun Hamagan behind Halhoul arson'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A secret Jewish organisation behind the Halhoul arson attack was not very successful "since little damage was caused."

Threats to inflict punishment on Arabs who throw stones at Israeli settlers and army patrols were repeatedly made by Jewish extremists in the past.

Stone-throwing, however, is regarded as a serious offence by the Israeli authorities who retaliate by imposing curfews on Arab areas -- an unwarranted act

which affects the community out of proportion to the original incident.

According to the Israeli newspaper the Irgun Hamagan, which announced its existence last week, has claimed responsibility for more serious attacks such as the breaking of the windows of 42 cars in Beit Jala recently, an attack on two Arab vehicles between Hebron and Yatta last Monday; and the planting of a bomb at the Kazazin Mosque in Hebron last February, which exploded, wounding two local residents.

U.S. to lift ban on F-16 sales to Israel

NEW YORK (R) — Secretary of State George Shultz says the U.S. will lift an embargo on the sale of 75 F-16 warplanes to Israel following Israel's agreement to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, the New York Times reported Saturday.

In a report from Amman, the newspaper said Mr. Shultz told reporters flying with him Friday

from Israel to the Jordanian capital that Israel would get the planes by 1985.

The Times noted that when President Reagan imposed the ban last summer he said it would last until Israeli troops withdrew from Lebanon. But Mr. Shultz told the reporters there was now no reason to hold up the sale any longer, the report added.

It also quoted Mr. Shultz as saying that clarifications sought by Israel about the agreement on withdrawal from Lebanon did not pose any real problem.

They dealt mainly with the size of the anti-commando unit that would be given to Major Saad Haddad, the pro-Israeli Lebanese militia commander in South Lebanon, the Times said.

Shamir: Israel will strengthen Haddad

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Saturday Israel was not satisfied with the proposals on the future of South Lebanese militia leader Saad Haddad contained in an accord on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon.

On Friday, Israel accepted in principle a U.S.-sponsored agreement for removing foreign armistices from Lebanon but asked Washington for clarifications on several points.

Mr. Shamir told Israeli Radio: "We shall be taking steps in the next few days to strengthen his (Major Haddad's) position, and he and his comrades can rest assured that he will play a decisive

role in South Lebanon."

Mr. Shamir said that unless Syria withdrew its forces from Lebanon, "we will have to act to protect our soldiers in Lebanon."

Israel has indicated it may withdraw to a safer line in South Lebanon if Syria refused to pull out.

Gulf states study ways to counter slick

BAHRAIN (R) — Warring Iran and Iraq Saturday joined other Gulf states at crisis talks here on fighting a giant oil slick threatening their coasts, conference officials said.

Technical experts were trying to draw up anti-pollution guidelines following the collapse of ministerial talks last month on capping Iranian wells which have been spewing thousands of barrels of oil daily into the Gulf, they said.

The officials said experts from Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain were at the talks. They hoped that representatives from Oman and Qatar would arrive later.

The wells in Iran's Nowruz field at the head of the Gulf have been pouring an estimated 2,000 to 8,000 barrels a day of thick, tarry

crude into the Gulf for at least two months.

Political wrangling between Iran and Iraq at three ministerial meetings prevented any agreement on capping the wells, two of which are believed to be ablaze.

But a meeting in Kuwait last month agreed to ask experts to formulate a plan to fight any pollution.

Iraq offered a limited ceasefire in the slick area, Iran rejected this, saying it wanted only a safe-conduct pledge from Baghdad for repair crews.

Iran has said it reached an understanding with the six Arabian Peninsula states on creating a demilitarised zone in the area. But Iraq acceptance, which has not been forthcoming, is crucial to capping the wells.

The officials said no com-

prehensive assessment of the slick's size was available and more surveillance was needed.

Estimates of the slick vary widely, with some experts putting it at the size of Belgium. But by one commonly accepted reckoning, patches of oil are done across about 8,000 square miles of the semi-enclosed waterway.

Experts say they believe most of the oil is still in Iranian waters and moving very slowly because winds and tides are countering each other. Some of them add that it could be a month before sizeable patches of oil hit the lower Gulf states.

The Gulf states have acted to protect vital installations, such as power and water plants, from the oil. But hundreds of miles of beaches and coastline remain vulnerable.

FEATURES

Britain's stately homes fight for survival

By Clare Fallon
Reuter

LONDON — Britain's stately homes have opened their gates to tourists, pop music fans, film crews and even gorillas in their struggle for survival.

High taxes and soaring maintenance costs mean that many of Britain's landed gentry have to allow the paying public into their ancestral homes to ensure their upkeep.

Other members of the gentry, unable to meet the costs, have abandoned their once palatial properties to the combined ravages of neglect, dry rot and unsympathetic planners, says Save Britain's Heritage (sue), a campaigning group formed eight years ago.

Between 1945 and 1974, 629 stately homes in England, Sco-

otland and Wales were demolished. Save Chairman Marcus Binney says. At least 70 more are now in danger through neglect.

More than 800 survive by letting in the public and many rely on no more than ancient works of art and splendid furnishings.

Longleat, an Elizabethan mansion in southwest England, has gorillas and lions in its park.

Althorp, ancestral home of Princess Diana, offers evenings of Gilbert and Sullivan music.

Longleat's owner, the Marquess of Bath, estimates stonework repairs alone cost 28,000 sterling (\$43,000) a year.

Opening the grounds to science fiction conventions and an annual teddy bears' picnic — which last year drew 30,000 people — helps him to pay the bills.

The stepmother of Princess Diana, wife of heir-to-the throne Prince Charles, charges guests 30

sterling (\$46) a head for dinner and musical evenings at Althorp, a 17th-century house near Northampton in central England, to help meet annual running costs of 80,000 sterling (\$124,000).

Some homes have survived by being sold for other uses.

Mentmore Towers, a 19th-century mansion built for the Rothschild family near Aylesbury, 55 kilometres northwest of London, was bought in 1977 by a transcendental meditation group which still allows visitors to look round.

Heavy taxes force some owners to sell. Duties are imposed on an estate when the owner dies and it transfers to his heirs. In addition, sales tax is charged on repairs and maintenance.

Lord Edward Browlow blamed taxes when he announced last week he was putting his ancestral home, Belton House, on the mar-

ket for 10 million sterling (\$16 million).

Faced with a large bill after his father died in 1978, he added an adventure playground to Belton, a 17th-century house in 4,800 acres (1,950 hectares) near Grantham, central England.

But he failed to attract enough visitors to keep it going.

This week, seven owners, worried by the future of their stately homes, banded together to organise joint promotions.

They hoped to reverse falling attendance figures, said the Duke of Marlborough, who owns 18th-century Blenheim Palace, where World War II leader Winston Churchill was born.

Save says some 80 country houses are empty and derelict. Many, listed by the government as buildings of architectural merit, are protected from demolition and so just abandoned.

Companies have been keen to take over stately homes as prestige offices. But this could cause problems, Binney says.

"New buildings are often erected hurriedly in unsympathetic materials in conspicuous positions and damage is done to the beauty and integrity of the house's architecture and setting."

Instead, Save is backing a scheme to convert some stately homes into flats while preserving their character and features.

Dingley Hall in Northamptonshire, central England, was almost derelict when an architect bought it in 1976, Binney said. He restored original features, converted the 16th-century house into 10 flats, which sold easily, and preserved the grounds.

"This is the one solution most likely to attract people who will appreciate the qualities of the house and its surroundings," he said.

London residents distrust Rogers' plan

By Elko Fukuda
Reuter

LONDON — If architect Richard Rogers, who gave Paris its high-tech Pompidou Arts Centre, had his way in London, a glass-encased walkway with soaring domed pavilions would stretch along the city's south bank riverside area and over the River Thames.

But this novel idea, part of a controversial office and housing scheme, has met with spirited opposition from local residents who feel threatened by what they say would be another sterile development for commercial use.

The Coin Street project, covering a 12-acre (five hectares) site of derelict warehouses and car parks behind the National Theatre complex, illustrates the obstacles blocking urban renewal in one of the world's major cities.

It is the largest development site in central London and potentially the most profitable given its access to both the "city", London's financial hub, and the mainline rail commuters' terminal at Waterloo.

"This site is the last major opportunity to create a social magnet on the south bank of the Thames," says Rogers, who deplores what he calls the windswept desert atmosphere characterising the area.

In 1951, the south bank became the site for the Festival of Britain, the country's largest cultural exposition since the great exhibition of 1851 in the heyday of the Victorian era.

In spite of this distinction and the monumental theatre and concert halls which have been built there, the area lacks the human activity found in comparable sites such as the Pompidou in Paris or the Rockefeller Centre in New York.

"If you never visit concerts or the theatre there is nothing at all to attract you," Rogers said. "The

place is a windswept desert. No life, no bustle, not even a street musician."

Rogers' scheme provides for a combination of high-rise offices, terraced houses with gardens, light industrial workshops and 200,000 square feet (18,600 sq metres) for recreation and shopping.

Architectural critics here have praised his attempt to diversify the site. In addition to the glass bridge, his plan incorporates a shopping gallery, a sunken outdoor amphitheatre, and that meeting places for the public.

But local residents, already surrounded by giant office towers which contribute little to community life, see such features as cosmetic. "The plan is a Berlin Wall to shut off south London from the river," said Ian Tuckett, a spokesman for the Association of Waterloo Groups (AWG), the neighbourhood council.

"They can draw what they like on paper, but you can't just slap down a third of a mile (530 metres) of shopping and think that it would work," he added.

Past experience with architects and planners has fostered resentment and distrust for large-scale developments among Londoners. Just down the road from Coin Street is the Elephant and Castle Shopping Centre which promised inner city revival but soon became dank and underused as massive blocks and highway traffic invaded the area.

South bank residents in particular have weathered numerous proposals featuring tree-lined piazzas, community sports centres and other appealing features but which more often than not have failed to materialise.

To counter Rogers' Tuckett's group, the AWG, has proposed a rival scheme emphasising housing and light industry, which they say will bring people back to Coin Str-

ect. "The Waterloo area has seen a 30 per cent drop in population since the war," said Tuckett, "at the heart of it is the demolition of houses either for office and company use, tourist or short-term pied-a-terre use."

Tenants in the area were being thrown out by those able to afford flats costing 500,000 sterling (\$780,000). Tuckett said, nothing that Rogers' scheme would drive south bank land prices and rents even higher.

The AWG, backed by London's left-wing municipal government, have fought Rogers and his property developers, Greencoats Commercial Estates, in two public inquiries said to have cost two million sterling (\$3 million) in legal fees.

They have recently appealed to the High Court to quash the planning permission given to the scheme by the Ministry of Environment last December.

"The issue is totally political," said a Greencoats spokesman. "Local politicians had used the planning issue to win positions on neighbourhood councils while failing to recognise the national importance of the site."

Rogers himself expressed sympathy for the residents' plight: "The locals are being pushed out, there's no doubt about it," he said. "The market has been driven out and the community has eroded."

The world-renowned architect says he seeks to redress the imbalance between company offices which turn their backs to the neighbourhood and private houses which give little to the public at large.

"The only thing I can do is to create a community where people can live a balanced life... it won't be the same community," he said. "Nothing can keep the same community."

How independent is the Isle of Man

By Martin Nesirky
Reuter

DOUGLAS, Isle of Man — A young labourer condemned to death for murdering a baby spent 85 days in a cell on this semi-autonomous island resort waiting to be hanged.

But after 19-year-old Stephen Moore's long weeks in solidarity confinement at the island's small prison in the capital, Douglas, Britain commuted his sentence to life imprisonment and transferred him to a bigger mainland jail.

The case in many ways typifies the status of the island, which although officially independent from Britain and with a way of life in many ways different to that of the mainland, has to seek formal ap-

proval from London for all its legislation.

A scenic and popular holiday resort in the Irish Sea, just 50 kilometres long and 20 kilometres wide, the Isle of Man has a tradition of rough justice but in recent years it has been unable to mete it out.

The island's 1,000-year-old parliament, the Tynwald, retains capital punishment for murder but the imposition of the death sentence on Moore was as much a formality as the British government order for his reprieve two months ago.

Because Britain abolished capital punishment in 1964 for all crimes except treason, it is unlikely Manx authorities will ever again use the hangman's noose.

Most of the 84,000 islanders, a handful of whom use the old Manx language, a type of Gaelic, are relatively placid. But on law and order many are outspoken and some are vitriolic.

In February, during one of a long series of debates on the death penalty, one member of the Tynwald's lower chamber, the House of Keys, said: "I am a hardliner. I do not believe in turning the other cheek. My inclination is to slap back."

He said unofficial referendums had shown that up to 90 per cent of the Manx electorate was in favour of capital and corporal punishment.

But although the island is officially independent from Britain in

all matters except defence and foreign policy, it knows it must carefully balance that independence with political and economic reality.

Britain is its main trading partner. British banks and companies there contribute greatly to the coffers of the island, a tax haven with flat rate income tax at 20 per cent and few other levies.

The island's status as a low tax refuge and offshore banking centre shows that although the islanders may be avowedly conservative in their approach to justice, they are financially astute.

Already well known in the collectors' world for its stamps and coins the Isle of Man now plans to introduce in August a waterproof plastic pound note which will be

far more durable than its paper counterpart.

Like the present notes, the new pound will depict the head of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, but significantly without a crown.

Since the British monarchy bought the island two centuries ago from Scottish dukes, the ruling monarch has been known here as Lord of Man.

This unusual relationship with the mainland, echoed by the fact that the island is not a member of the Common Market but has close links with it, lends the Isle of Man an almost anachronistic air.

As a growing financial centre the island has one foot in the future, but as one of the Western world's last countries with the death penalty for murder,

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HOME NEWS

FAO seminar seeks to unify pan-Arab farming credit policy



Dr. Sami Sunna

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Near East North Africa Regional Agricultural Credit Association opened a two-week course here Saturday on agricultural credit management.

A total of 25 participants from nine Arab countries are attending the course where they will hear presentation on the sources agricultural credit, the importance of agriculture in developing nations' economies, methods of obtaining credit and repayment.

During the course, the attendees will also tour a number of agricultural projects in Jordan.

Addressing the opening session was the Director-General of the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC), Dr. Sami Sunna, who out-

lined the importance of the course which he said "will improve the capabilities and skills of the personnel employed in agricultural credit operations."

He later told the Jordan Times that the course is organized by the Amman-based association which is a branch of the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO).

Also addressing the opening session was the association's Secretary-General Ibrahim Abdullah who said that the course is the third of its type to be held following those held in Pakistan and Cyprus. He called on the participants to agree on proposals aimed at unifying agricultural credit policies in the Arab World.

Also speaking at the opening session was the Director-General of the Jordanian Cooperative Organisation (JCO), Hassan Nahuli, who stated that extending credit to small farmers was a basic requisite for developing agriculture. He then went on to assert that agricultural development is the key to achieving food security in the Arab World, he said.

The countries taking part in the course are Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan, North and South Yemen, Lebanon, and Syria.

Awqaf Ministry announces Al Isra' Wal Mi'raj service

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs announced here Saturday that it will hold a special religious ceremony in Amman Tuesday to mark the feast of Al Isra' Wal Mi'raj, the anniversary of Prophet Muhammad's nocturnal journey to Jerusalem and his ascension to and return from heaven.

At the ceremony, Islamic Chief Justice Sheikh Ibrahim Qattan,

the dean of the Shari'a College and the mufti of the armed forces will make speeches on the meaning of that feast.

Other ceremonies throughout the country will also be held on that day which will be celebrated as a public holiday. As such, government departments and the offices of other public institutions will be closed.

Artillery fire rocks Beirut

(Continued from page 1)

in preparation for possible Israeli and Syrian withdrawal.

But there was no quick explanation as to what the various parties involved hoped to gain from spreading the fighting and pouring shellfire onto the capital in its worst barrage since last summer's Israeli siege.

At the centre of the fighting is the century-old rivalry between the Christians and the Druze, a sect of some 120,000 in Lebanon, who share the rugged central Lebanese mountains.

The mountains are now divided

between the armies of the two main protagonists in the Middle East conflict, Israel and Syria, giving an international scope to the fighting.

The latest round of clashes began when Israel invaded Lebanon last June. The Israelis pushed back the Syrians from the Shouf mountains south-east of Beirut, until then a Druze stronghold, and allowed in their allies, the right-wing militiamen known as "the Lebanese Forces."

Since then, the rightists have fought sporadically with gunmen of the mainly-Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) in the areas



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Kamel Al Sharif formally opens a bazaar in aid of charity at the Islamic Cultural Centre Saturday (Petra photo)

Sharif opens charity bazaar

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Kamel Al Sharif Saturday opened a charity bazaar organised by the Islamic Cultural Centre.

On display, during the one week bazaar, are samples of children's clothing, paintings, artificial flowers, needlework, girls' costumes and books, all prepared by handicapped children.

Falcons' poster earns award

AMMAN (J.T.) — The judges of the 1983 "Desi Awards", organised by Graphics Design, USA of New York, have selected the Royal Jordanian Falcons' 1982 summer tour poster for its "excellence in the creation of a graphic design and its execution" in the poster category.

VTC chief, World Bank discuss possible financing

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) has held discussions with the World Bank on the possibility of financing a number of vocational programmes to be carried out in Jordan.

Discussion on the subject was conducted by VTC Director-General Munzer Al Masri during his visit to the United States over in the past week.

Mr. Masri, who returned to Amman Friday evening, said he also reviewed with World Bank officials the outcome of a special study which the World Bank had conducted in Jordan on the country's skilled manpower requirements.

While in the United States, Mr. Masri took part in a conference on vocational training which ended last week at the University of Wisconsin.

The conference prepared the ground for an international conference on vocational training which will be held in Canada in 1985 and which will cover cooperation between the industrialised and developing nations on the promotion of vocational training programmes, Mr. Masri said.

Jordan, he said, is member of an 18-member committee preparing for the Canada conference. Mr. Masri submitted to the Wisconsin conference a working paper on the relationship between vocational training and general economic development policies in Jordan.

Tender team to assess Hamzeh hospital bids

AMMAN (J.T.) — A special tender committee formed by the Ministry of Public Works will consider the bids submitted by 140 companies for the implementation of the Prince Hamzeh hospital complex, Al Ra'i newspaper said Saturday.

It said that the first phase of the project, to be carried out in the north-east of Amman, is expected to cost JD 40 million. The JD 70 million complex will entail the construction of a 600-bed hospital, a blood bank and other facilities, according to Health Ministry sources.

The ministry has plans to build similar hospitals in Tafleh, Ma'an and Irbid, the sources said.

Jordan Times

Tel: 6-66320,
666265

Hassan praises scouting movement in Ajloun visit

AJLOUN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday paid a visit to the Ajloun, scout camp where Jordanian scouts and girl guides are holding a seminar on the role of the scouting movement.

In a speech to the participants, Prince Hassan praised the role of the Jordanian scouting movement and voiced appreciation of the

Tal urges adoption of new technology in education field

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Education Sa'id Al Tal opened here Saturday a 10-day regional seminar on the influence of the mass communications media on the educational process in the Arab World.

He told the delegates from 14 Arab countries gathered at the Yarmouk University's Liaison Office that nearly one-third of Jordan's population are students, putting the country in the forefront of those nations that are leading the world in educational innovation.

In view of its tremendous expansion in education, Jordan has come to realise the importance of the role of technology in education. It is imperative, Dr. Tal said, that students be taught how properly to use the new equipment and hardware, but such technology is also invaluable as an aid in the improvement of teaching methods.

The Ministry of Education, he said, has been making use of radio and television media since 1968 mainly to transmit educational

programmes to students in Jordan during class hours, and has created a special department for technology to improve the quality of education as well as to train teachers.

He then expressed a hope that the seminar will arrive at recommendations which will help his ministry to improve teacher training programmes in technological fields and to further exploit existing audio visual aids.

Also addressing the opening session was Information Minister Adnan Abu Odeh who said that information media like radio and television help to propagate education.

Mr. Abu Odeh said that "our society should not only act as a consumer of other nations' commodities and ready-made programmes as these might conflict

with our values and principles. Therefore," he continued, "we have to plan our own integrated educational programmes."

The seminar is organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), whose representative Dr. Abdul Qader Yusef said in a speech that Jordan plays a unique role in the organisation's activities in the region due to its close cooperation in educational fields with other Arab countries.

This seminar he said is dedicated to improving the training of teachers in the use of the information media in education.

The participants will discuss several working papers on training, educational skills, the use of mass media in education and other related topics.

Delegates from UNESCO along with representatives from North Yemen, Morocco, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan are taking part in the seminar.



Information Minister Adnan Abu Odeh (centre) and Education Minister Sa'id Al Tal (to Mr. Abu Odeh's right) view a model on display at an exhibition Mr. Abu Odeh opened Saturday at the Comprehensive School for Girls (Petra photo)

Abu Odeh opens exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh opened in Amman Saturday an exhibition of arts and models produced by female school students.

On display at the Comprehensive School for Girls are paintings, artificial flower arrangements, scale models in plaster depicting the local environment, calligraphy and other arts representing Jordanian traditional and folk art.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Education Minister Sa'id Al Tal.

Week-long productivity seminar opens at IPA

AMMAN (Petra) — A week-long seminar on productivity opened at the Institute of Public Administration in Amman Saturday.

Participants are to be lectured on ways of increasing productivity, defining and measuring productive forces, production

management, and the optimal deployment of the organisation's resources.

Taking part in the seminar are representatives from various public and private industrial, commercial and financial institutions in Jordan.



The week-long seminar on productivity at the Institute of Public Administration opens in Amman Saturday (Petra photo)

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Student exchange programme leads to growth and harmony

The Arab Fellowship Society (AFS) was created a few months ago to start a pan-Arab student exchange programme in which Jordan, Egypt and Tunisia will initially play the leading roles. But the organisation has grown out of a much older AFS, which has already enabled dozens of Jordanian students to sample life in the West, and vice versa. Salwa El Taher reports.

In September 1914 the American Field Service was founded in Paris, as a private effort of some Americans in France to help the French armies with their casualties. During the World War I, more than 2000 young Americans volunteered to drive ambulances on the Western Front.

The drivers learned to know and respect the people of France. Though their work was difficult and often dangerous, the ambulance drivers found they grew a great deal from their experience. When the war ended, these drivers did not disband; rather, they used their organisation to further peace through understanding, by founding the AFS fellowships which provided opportunities for U.S. college students to attend French universities.

With the beginning of the World War II, the ambulance units were reactivated. This time, drivers served with French and British forces in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Following World War II, in 1947, and under the directorship of Stephen Gallati, a small group of students from 11 countries was brought to the United States to live with American families and attend American schools. These young people were so eager to learn about life in a foreign culture, that AFS decided to focus its efforts on this 15 to 18 year-old group.

In 1950, AFS began sending Americans abroad to live with families. These programme in reverse were suggested by students who had spent a year in the states and gained so much from their experience that they wanted to return the hospitality. From here the programmes for high school students grew rapidly in many countries of the world. Even though wars and other serious disturbances have forced AFS to discontinue programmes in one or the other country, AFS continues to seek programme in new countries.

On the average, AFS has operated in sixty countries over the years. In the early 1970s the first student participants were exchanged between countries other than the United States. By the early 1980s, AFS was operating in more than 600 bilateral programmes in 60 countries around the world.

AFS is essentially a volunteer organisation. 350 staff around the world support approximately 100,000 volunteers who provide essential services to programme participants such as selection, family finding, counselling, etc.

A member of the organisation ever since 1947, Jordan's exchange has so far been limited to the U.S. This year, 25 students left to live with American families and attend high school in the States, while five American students are currently living the Jordanian way with five families in Amman.

But the local office in Amman is taking on a new name and added purposes. Thus, the Arab Fellowship Society was born early this year to go on with the student

exchange and to start a new pan-Arab programme. Egypt and Tunisia, the other two main Arab members of the organisation, will be the first countries in this programme.

The Arab Fellowship Society's office is headed by Mrs. Fadia Zalatimo. She works actively all year round to find appropriate host families and to follow up the progress of our students abroad. She is supported by volunteers who believe in the value of the programme. Together, they interview candidates from all schools, choosing the most out-going, self-confident and active students. But host families are their highest challenge, for the future and continuity of the programme depends on the willingness of Jordanian families to host.

Give and take

One family that believes AFS to be a mutually give and take are the Beseis. Mr. and Mrs. Nu'man Beseis sent their daughter Hala to the States last year and are currently hosting Sabrina, from the USA. They live with their three daughters, Reem, Dima and Hala in a two bedroom house in Shmeisani. Both parents had been keen on sending Hala to the States.

"I liked the idea of my daughter becoming independent," explains

on the whole, is a happier person.

And happy this household seems to be, as the sound of laughter and the hustle of activity all around me tells me this is both a busy and close-knit family.

But why did a couple who had three daughters host another one? "I felt it to be a moral obligation. I simply owed it to AFS who gave me my daughter back so mature and self-assured."

The Beseis hesitated to host at first because of the lack of space. "My three daughters share the same room, you see. I was not sure at first if I should attempt to host. Then I decided to treat the 'AFS'er' as my own child in every way. Ever since, I have felt natural and at ease. I am frank and clear in my dealings with Sabrina, as I am, actually, with all my daughters."

This is not the first time the Beseis have hosted. "The Ministry of Social Affairs asked us last year through the principal of the school if we would host for five days a British girl who came to learn about Ramadan and other aspects of our culture. We accepted, of course, and it was a pleasure."

Reem shows me a crystal ball in token of her appreciation, and correspondence that she keeps up with them. Mrs. Beseis hands me a letter from Minister of Social Affairs Mrs. In'am El Mufti thanking them for their hospitality.

But hosting for five days must be different from hosting for a year? "I have always had my daughters' friends over," explains Mrs. Beseis. "I don't in any way feel Sabrina's presence as a strain. I do not do any extra work, I do

Hala and Sabrina walk in, each wearing the same pink woolen dress, with a white collar. Seeing my surprise, Mrs. Beseis explains that she made these dresses for the girls herself.

"Didn't you know we were twins?" Hala asks me. "We were both born on July 19th, 1965, explains Sabrina. "My mother, who at first worried about my coming to the Middle East, was very excited about this fact."

As we move into the plant-filled diningroom where Mrs. Beseis is serving tea and cakes, I ask Sabrina how she felt when she knew she was coming to Jordan (AFS students cannot choose the country they go to, and only know about it a month or less before they actually set sail).

"I had never considered coming to the Middle East, so when I heard the news it was quite a shock. My father was set against it at first. He was very worried because of the situation in Beirut. Then my mother inquired at the State Department who told us it was safe. She then proceeded to convince my father. But I still did not know what to expect. There was no information whatsoever about Jordan at the AFS office in New York or anywhere. What I actually got from AFS New York was some incorrect information about the weather. I went to the library, but that did not help much either. I was totally unprepared."

How has Sabrina adjusted to life in Jordan? "It takes a while. It is hard at school because the girls are so much younger. It is also hard for me to see so many people at home

on your own now."

Meanwhile, Sabrina is passing her courses at the CMS with flying colours. Her school-mistress, Mrs. Zina Sharaiha, as well as individual teachers attest to her excellent performance.

Jordanians abroad

But how much of a stress is it for 16-year-old Jordanians to go and live for a year in the States? Hala has a great deal to say:

"The idea attracted me ever since I was in second primary. I always dreamt of seeing more and knowing more of the world. Now I can discuss things easier and with more depth. I would advise students to try to go, but not any student. You have to be ready to take a certain amount of stress and do a great deal of work. Would you believe I once had to give twenty short speeches in one day? I was so tired I lost my voice."

"It isn't as if you have to adjust to them, and that's all. Because they also have to adjust to you. And by the time they are seniors in High School, the students have usually formed close and exclusive cliques. It takes time and patience and a certain assertiveness to get accepted."

"But, from giving speeches I learnt to face people. From being on my own in a foreign environment I discovered my own potential. It was a proving time for me."

"When you come back, it is not over. You have to re-adjust at school, at the CMC, I had to prove myself all over again, and get re-accepted."

But letters sent by Hala's American family tell us how much we can expect from our best students and how proud we can be. The following is an excerpt from a letter sent by Mr. J.A. Janson to Mr. and Mrs. Beseis:

"The AFS programme was very well organised and considerate of all involved. The only thing they neglected to tell us was that when Hala left it would be like losing a daughter! Of course, it won't be forever. We expect to see Hala many more times. Nonetheless, it was very painful when Hala left. We all sobbed like babies."

And, further down: "I have been exposed to a few people generally acknowledged to be in the category of great people. None of them were teenagers because they have not achieved the status and recognition. However, I predict that Hala, some day, in some field, be a person that will make a great contribution. She is endowed with extraordinary intelligence, diplomacy, wit and energy and will undoubtedly surface as a world leader. Hala has the potential to truly distinguish herself in a way that will be of considerable consequence to mankind."

Once a host, always a host?

Another enthusiastic family are the Nashashibi. They have hosted four times, Mrs. Kawthar El Nashashibi explains:

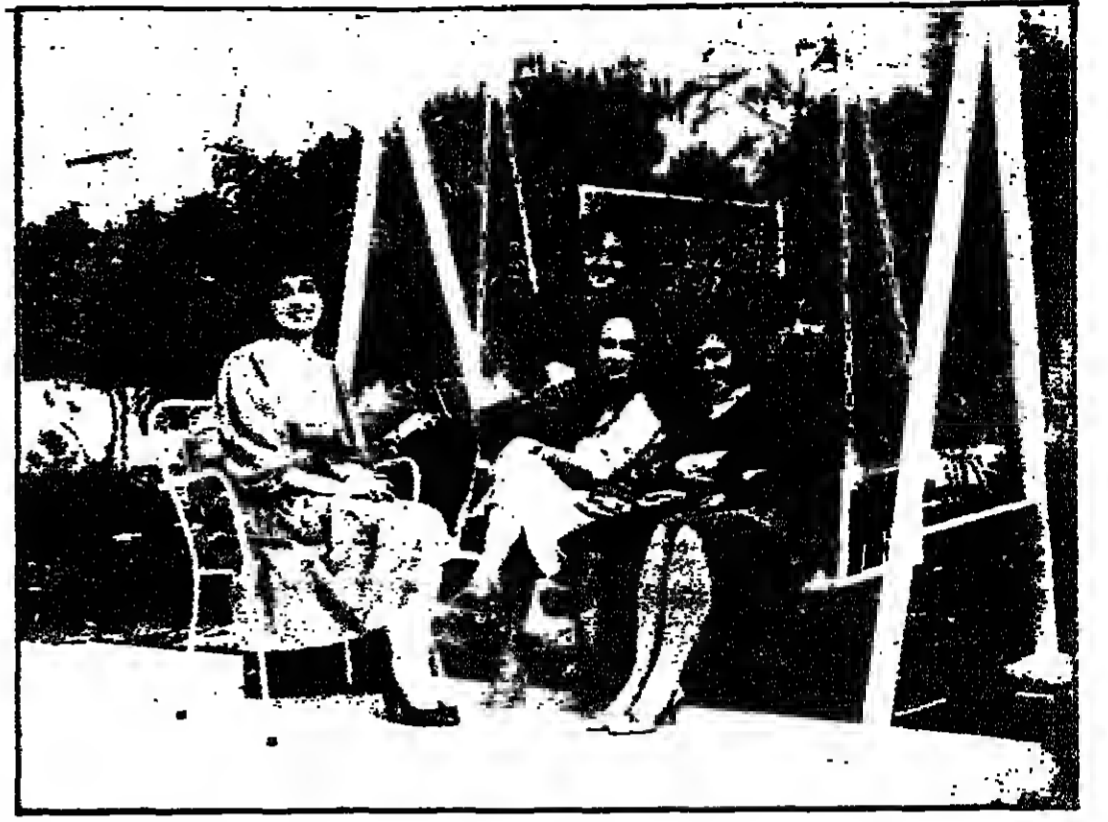
"Just as our students act as ambassadors for us abroad, so we act as ambassadors here to our guests. As an aware individual, I wanted to do my share in countering the propaganda against us."

Does hosting put any stress on the family?

"Hosting really brings out the best in us. For we are by nature hospitable people. But every experience in hosting is different. My first one was a test in coexistence. There were clashes in the beginning; I would go out of my way to cook special food. Then things smoothed out. Liza, my first girl,

present from her 'sister' Abir, Shana looked the picture of harmony on her eighteenth birthday. "I was a bit disappointed when I first learnt I was coming to Jordan," says Shana right out. "The Middle East. I had never even considered." Shana comes from Boulder, Colorado. "When I arrived, I was surprised to find everything pretty much the same col-

"I am evaluating things and events more carefully. Whenever I am not here, Mama feels as if there is an empty place. So now I pick what I want to do. In the past, if I didn't do something, I felt as if I was missing out on things. At first, it seemed to me as if I was always home, going nowhere. Now I feel I have earned my place in the family and I am proud of it."



Sabrina (centre) is treated exactly as if she were a member of the family

came to prefer Arabic food after a while and to appreciate our way of living.

"Every hosting experience has also been a learning experience of some sort. Every one of my girls came from a different state, with her own accent, religion, background."

Liza, the Nashashibi's first 'AFS'er' is still remembered with a great deal of nostalgia and tenderness. Her picture stands on one of the living-room tables, and her Christmas card to Mama, addressed and signed in Arabic.

Mrs. Nashashibi sighs: "I miss Liza very much. But she still calls me on my birthdays. I plan to bring her back to Jordan one day on my own account. You see, instead of going to America, I brought America here. Now I have daughters and homes in the USA, just as they have a mother and a home in Jordan."

"Wow! You're kidding? A white Christmas? Shana's voice hables as she speaks on the phone in the other room: her 'natural' family were calling her because it was Christmas, and her birthday, too."

Meanwhile, her Jordanian mother speaks with affection of the way her current guest, Shana, has integrated into her home: "She has grown attached, even committed, to us. She has grown more disciplined and more organised. And she is clearly more understanding and discriminating."

Harmony and growth

Glowing in her new royal blue dress with silver embroidery, a

our: the land, the buildings and even the trees are a sandy green. Architecture is all so square and linear. Now, I almost like it. It seems so much more organised."

Was she homesick, on this doubly special day?

"I am homesick today," confesses Shana. "But it isn't as bad as it was during Thanksgiving. I guess that means I am more adjusted to here now, and on better terms with my family. Abir and I never fight, but we cease each other a lot."

"I have no problems at school," says she, confirming Secor Hilou's report about her (Shana attends at the Sisters of Nazareth School). "I am able to follow all the scientific courses in Arabic. I remember my physics diagrams and I learn the Arabic numbers, therefore I can follow." Shana's grades in physics are over 90 per cent. The same goes for chemistry and maths."

"But I am also taking Arabic, Arts, Sports, and English. I am learning a great deal from the English class, because I have never studied grammar. And I also get the chance to do creative writing."

Asked how she saw herself now as compared to when she first arrived, Shana says: "I am able to cope with situations so much better. Before I came, I felt that anything going wrong was a personal attack on me. Now I see it is not that way and I can handle things better."

"I have learnt to listen to what people actually say, instead of hearing what I want them to say, or what I imagine them to say. This must have come from the language barrier."

"I am listening to my own thoughts more. I have started a diary seriously. I missed writing only once since I came here. This helps me to work out things better." "Social clues threw me off, at first. Once thing I found confusing was the boy-girl relationship. It seems that a boy and a girl can only be either merely acquainted or engaged. It took me a while to realise friendship between the sexes was not common. The way I related to boys was considered forward when I first came, so I decided that was not the best way of doing things."

"I realise now that there are two sides to every issue. In America everything political leans so heavily towards Israel that coming here was like discovering another world and apprehending a new reality."

Shana, at eighteen, has frank blue eyes which sparkle as she smiles, irradiating warmth. And the peace she conveys is one she has worked hard to earn, with all the perseverance, courage, insight and love she is capable of.

The motto of AFS is: Walk together, talk together. O ye people of the earth, Then and only then Shall ye have peace.

Born out of post-war euphoria, today it sounds simplistic and naive. Our students cannot ensure world peace. But they are so many germs sown, not to be blown by the wind, so many contacts established so that more voices shall be raised both in protest and in plea.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

16:30 Koran
16:30 Cartoons
17:30 Children's Programme
17:30 Black Horse
18:00 Cinema
18:30 That's Incredible
19:15 Walt Disney
19:30 Programmes Review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local Programme
21:00 Arabic Series
22:10 Nanny
23:10 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Comedy: Braff
21:10 Nanny
22:00 News in English
22:15 Best Seller: A Whale for the Killing

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 9500 KHz. SW

07:00 Morning Show
07:30 News Bulletin
08:00 News Summary
08:30 Morning Show
09:00 News Summary
09:30 Pop Session
10:00 News Summary
10:30 Catch the Words
10:40 News Bulletin
11:00 Instruments
11:30 Science Report
12:00 Concert Hour
12:30 News Summary
13:00 Instruments, Old Favourites
13:30 Lantana's Choice
14:00 News Summary
14:30 Jazz Hour
15:00 News Bulletin
15:30 Date with a Star
16:00 Evening Show
16:30 News Summary
17:00 News Summary
17:30 Evening Show
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Evening Show
19:00 News Summary
19:30 Evening Show
20:00 News Summary
20:30 Evening Show
21:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Ramen and Concorde 06:45 Financial Review 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:00 British Press Review 07:15 Letterbox 07:30 Parade 07:45 Letter from America 08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Countdown 08:45 World News 09:00 News about Britain 09:15 From Our Own Correspondent 09:30 Sarah and Company 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 The Pleasure's Yours 10:30 World News 11:00 British Press Review 11:15 People and Politics 11:45 Sports Review 12:15 Classical Record Review 12:30 Religious Service 13:00 World News 13:05 News about Britain 13:15 Letter from America 13:30 Baker's Half Dozen 13:40 World News 13:45 Commentary 13:55 Good Books 14:00 Short Story 14:05 The Tony Myster Request Show 14:30 What Makes A Millionaire 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 Concert Hall 18:00 World News 18:05 Commentary 18:15 From Our Own Correspondent 18:35 Financial Review 18:45 Letter from America 19:00 World News 19:05 Meridian 19:40 Reflections 19:45 Sports Review 20:00 World News 20:05 News about Britain 20:15 Newsweek 20:30 Brain of Britain 1983 21:00 Parade 21:15 With Great Pleasure 22:00 World News 22:05 Commentary 22:15 Letterbox 22:30 Sunday Half-Hour 23:00 Love and Mr. Lewisham 23:15 The Pleasure's Yours 24:00 World News 00:05 Sportsweek 01:00 World News 01:05 Commentary 01:15 Letter from America 01:30 Strictly Instrumental

VOICE OF AMERICA

KHz: 1260, 5965, 7200, 15205, 17275

05:00 The Breakfast Show: News, Information Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answer to Listener's Questions, Science Digest, News Summary at 30 minutes past the hour. 17:00 News: 17:10 New Horizons and New Products 17:30 Special English News at Features 18:00 News 18:10 International Viewpoints 18:30 News Summary 19:00 News Summary 19:10 Critics Choice 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News 20:10 Sunday Report 20:30 Issues in News 21:00 News

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITION

"The second exhibition of contemporary Jordanian painters at the Spanish Cultural Centre."

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 6610267
American Centre 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Husseini Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaic from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qafra (Cliffed Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Montazah, Jabal Lweideh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.
Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes,

weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman. Eighth Floor. Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lweideh, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 43455.
Armenian Catholic Church, Ashrafieh, 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist Church in Simeisani, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

03:12 Fajr
04:42 Sunrise
11:53 Dhuhr
12:23 Asr
19:53 Maghrib
19:53 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at Amman Airport tel. 92205-6, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

08:05 Tripoli, Larnaca (L1)
08:55 Cairo (E1)
09:15 Dubai, Muscat (R1)
09:30 Jeddah (R1)
09:45 Kuwait (R1)
10:15 Beirut (R1)
10:35 Obahran, Riyadh (SV)
13:40 Kuwait (KU)
15:20 Jeddah (SV)
15:45 London (L1)
16:30 Cairo (R1)
16:50 Athens (R1)
16:55 Agaba (R1)
17:00 Brussels, Frankfurt (R1)
17:15 New York, Vienna (R1)
17:45 Paris, Geneva (R1)
19:30 Rome (R1)
19:50 London (BA)
20:15 Beirut (MEA)
20:35 Zurich, Athens, Damascus (SV)
00:30 Cairo (EU)
00:45 Baghdad (R1)

DEPARTURES

04:45 Cairo (R1)
05:40 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:00 Agaba (R1)
09:00 Rome (Alitalia)
09:05 Beirut (MEA)
09:15 Larnaca, Tripoli (L1)
10:30 Rome (R1)
10:45 Athens (R1)
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (R1)
11:45 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
12:30 Cairo (R1)
14:30 Kuwait (KU)
14:50 Agaba (R1)
15:00 Baghdad (R1)
16:30 Jeddah (SV)
18:45 Beirut (R1)
19:00 Kuwait (R1)
19:05 Kuwait (SR)
19:15 Dhahran (R1)
19:30 Jeddah (R1)
19:40 Bahrain, Doha (R1)
19:50 Abu Dhabi (R1)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A sharp fall in temperature is expected, with light and medium clouds. Winds will be northwesterly moderate freshening at times. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Low/high temperature in deg. C.
Amman 12/19
Agaba 19/31
Deir 18/28
Jordan Valley 16/28

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Agaba 31. Humidity readings: Amman 55 per cent. Agaba 33 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in Jls
Belgian franc 73.2 / 73.6
Dutch guilder 129.7 / 130.5
Egyptian pound 322.2 / 328.3
French franc 48.5 / 48.8
Iraqi dinar 522.5 / 528.7
Japanese yen (for 100) 24.5 / 24.7
Kuwaiti dinar 1254 / 1230
Lebanese lira 85.4 / 86.1
Omani rial 1026.2 / 1035
Qatari riyal 97.6 / 98.3
Saudi riyal 103.1 / 103.5
Swedish crown 47.7 / 48
Swiss franc 174.9 / 175.9
Syrian lira 61.3 / 61.6
U.K. sterling pound 97 / 97.6
U.S. dollar 562.5 / 565.9
W. German mark 356 / 358
U.S. dollar 146 / 146.9

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 75111
Fire, fire, police 75121
Blood bank 75121
Civil Defence rescue 66111
Police headquarters 22090-3
Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777
Police headquarters 39141
Traffic police 66390-1
Electric Power Co. 36381-2
Municipal water service 71125-8.

HOSPITALS

Husseini Medical Centre 813813-32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4
Al-Khat Maternity, J. Amman 42441
Jabal Amman Maternity 42362
Malha, J. Amman 36140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171-2
Shmeisani Hospital 669131-1
University Hospital 845845
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158
Al-Muasher Hospital 667257-9
The Islamic, Abdali 665292
Al-Abi, Abdali 664164
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101-3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111
Army, Marka 91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Khalil 50294

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jls per kg.
Almond (Green) 600 / 600
Apple (American) 500 / 450
Apple (Double Red) 200 / 100
Apple (Golden) 200 / 100
Apple (Turkish) 200 / 150
Apple (French) 500 / 450
Apple (Starline) 200 / 150
Banana 270 / 220
Banana (Mukammal) 230 / 200
Beans 350 / 300
Beans (broad) 130 / 100
Beets 150 / 100
Cabbage 90 / 60
Carrot 120 / 80
Cauliflower (white) 280 / 200
Pears 750 / 700
Peaches 900 / 800
Pepper (Sweet) 660 / 600
Pepper (Hot Green) 660 / 600
Plums 850 / 750
Garlic (green) 150 / 120
Garlic (dry) 250 / 200
Grapes 150 / 100
Grapes 1100 / 1000
Grape leaves 600 / 500
Lemon 220 / 180
Liquorons 500 / 400
Marrow (large) 80 / 60
Marrow (small) 130 / 100
Onion (dry) 100 / 70
Onion (green) 3

SPORTS

Liverpool takes possession of League trophy

Brighton, Swansea take the big drop

LONDON (R) — Brighton, the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup finalists, and Swansea plummeted into the second division Saturday... and any one of six clubs could take the big drop with them.

Once-mighty Manchester City, winners of the League Championship in 1968, F.A. Cup in 1969, League Cup in 1970 and 1976, and European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1970, are one of the clubs in danger.

But a 1-0 win at Brighton, which doomed the Cup finalists, means they can stay up by beating Luton next Saturday.

With one game remaining, Brighton have 40 points, one fewer than Swansea who went down 2-1 at Manchester United, with third from the bottom Luton, who have a game in hand, on the 46-point mark.

Coventry, Sunderland and Birmingham all gained unexpected victories Saturday and next week's Manchester City-Luton clash could be crucial. Luton, who have won a lot of friends but few points with their attacking style, were thrashed 5-1 at home by Everton and have seven days in which to pick themselves up.

At the other end of the table, Liverpool took possession of the League Championship trophy at the start of their home game against Aston Villa—Bob Paisley's last match at Anfield before retirement.

Liverpool, who had lost their four previous League games, again looked as if they were playing with their eyes closed and their hands in their pockets and duly fell behind to a 12th minute Gary Shaw penalty.

Nothing, however, could spoil Paisley's farewell to Anfield and the famous fans on the "Kop" terrace roared their encouragement.

Liverpool, who have had the title wrapped up for months, finally awoke from their slumbers and an 82nd minute Craig Johnston equaliser saved the day.

In the top-of-the-table division two clash, Queen's Park Rangers beat Wolverhampton 2-1 but both clubs are already assured of promotion.

The third place will not be decided until next week. Leicester have only to beat lowly Burnley at home to be certain of going up but Fulham are poised to swoop should their rivals slip.

Manchester City's hero was striker Kevin Reeves, who cost one million sterling (\$1.5 million) from Norwich three seasons ago.

Reeves repaid a massive chunk of that fee when he rose at the near post 16 minutes from the end to flash a magnificent header high into the Brighton net.

Ecstatic City fans carried Reeves shoulder-high from the pitch while the despondent Brighton players made their weary way to the dressing room.

Swansea, who finished sixth last season, always looked like a second division outfit once they fell behind to a 19th minute Bryan Robson goal against Manchester United at Old Trafford.

Irish international striker Frank Stapleton scored a second 15 minutes from the end and Bob Latchford's 89th minute consolation goal was a case of far too little, far too late for the Welshmen.

Watford's hopes of finishing second to Liverpool in their first ever season in Division One nosedived at Ipswich where they went down 3-1, leaving Manchester United as firm favourites for the runners-up spot.

The Scottish Premier League race will not be decided until next Saturday—the last day of the season.

Unfashionable Dundee United are still favourites to lift the flag for the first time in history but Aberdeen, who meet Real Madrid in the European Cup-Winners' Cup final in Gothenburg on Wednesday, and Celtic are lying handy should they slip up.

United, who meet neighbours Dundee next week, thrashed Motherwell 4-0 with two goals apiece from Davie Dodds and Eamonn Bannon to remain one point ahead of their rivals.

Celtic, second on goal difference, beat Morton 2-0 at home. Roy Aitken and Charlie Nicholas, inevitably, scoring the goals.

Aberdeen, who are also in the Scottish Cup final, kept up their challenge in midweek when they crushed relegated Kilmarnock 5-0.

Their Scottish Cup final opponents, Glasgow Rangers, warmed up with a 2-1 win against Hibernian in Edinburgh.

International winger Davie Cooper gave Rangers a 2-0 interval lead but Ralph Callaghan reduced the deficit after the break.

McEnroe clashes with Smid in close-range duel

NEW YORK (R) — Second-seeded John McEnroe advanced to the semi-finals of the \$300,000 tennis Tournament of Champions when he beat Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia, 6-3, 7-5 Friday in a tumultuous match in which both players aimed shots at one another at close range.

After McEnroe had missed Smid with a wicked backhand at close quarters in the sixth game of the first set, the Czechoslovak retaliated with a sizzling backhand that struck McEnroe in the side from about 15 feet (three metres) away in the first game of the second set.

At the ensuing changeover, McEnroe drew a warning from umpire Frank Hammond when, according to Smid, he called the Czechoslovak a "f--- communist bastard."

Tournament referee Zeno Pfau said later that McEnroe was fined \$1,000 for "abuse of a player."

The changeover exchange was one of several between the two players during the match at the West Side Tennis Club in which both argued repeatedly over line calls.

Third-seeded Guillermo Vilas of Argentina and ninth seed Johan Kriek of the United States also reached the semi-finals.

Vilas, playing at Forest Hills for the first time since he won the last U.S. Open played on clay in 1977, beat Paul McNamee of Australia, 6-2, 6-2, and Kriek eliminated 19-year-old Henri Leconte of France, 7-5, 3-6, 6-0.

Fifth-seeded Vitas Gerulaitis also gained the semi-finals when he beat little-known fellow American Brad Gilbert 7-5, 7-6.

Gerulaitis fought off a set point in the first set and was thoroughly extended in beating 21-year-old Gilbert, ranked 74th in the world, and who earlier scored upset wins over 15th seeded Balazs Taroczy of Hungary and fourth seeded Kevin Curren of South Africa.

The volatile Kriek was fined \$100 for swatting a ball in anger—after a point had been decided—that almost hit Leconte and caused the young Frenchman to fall.

But that incident paled in comparison to the tactics that McEnroe and the 26-year-old Smid engaged in before a crowd of over 10,000.

Those tactics, along with the frequent arguing over line calls, overshadowed a brilliant performance by McEnroe, who never lost his service and allowed Smid to reach deuce only once in the match.

Smid, visibly upset after the match, conceded he had deliberately tried to hit McEnroe because of his interminable bickering with linesmen and the umpire.

"He's a great player, but he's always complaining," Smid said. "I didn't do nothing, but he tried to hit me. And if he tried to hit me, why shouldn't I try to hit him."

McEnroe said later that he had not tried to hit the Czechoslovak, but admitted he had aimed a shot close to him deliberately.

"I tried to hit it at him because he was being a hypocrite out there," the three-time U.S. Open champion said.

"I was wrong for what I did, and he was wrong for doing what he did. I didn't think he had the guts to go for me, and I've got to give him credit for going for me."

Smid said he was determined at the outset of the match not to tolerate any prolonged arguing by McEnroe.

"He wasn't any different than when we played before, but I told myself I wasn't going to let him get away with it today," Smid added.

The bad blood surfaced several days after Smid's countryman, Ivan Lendl, said he would no longer be passive in the face of McEnroe's outbursts. Upset over McEnroe's conduct when he beat him in the WCT final last Sunday, Lendl told reporters on Tuesday that he might deliberately hit balls at McEnroe in the future.

But Smid, who has never beaten

McEnroe in seven meetings, said the feud between Lendl and McEnroe had no bearing on his actions Friday.

McEnroe refused to apologise for the epithet he directed at Smid. Asked if he regretted saying it, he said: "Absolutely not."

But he said he deserved to be fined for his remark. "I was out of line to say it, but it came in the heat of battle," he said. "In retrospect, I deserve to be fined for saying it."

Despite a pulled thigh muscle, McEnroe gave a virtuoso performance on the clay court, a surface on which he has never done particularly well.

He hammered in seven aces and nine service winners, as against four and eight for Smid, and scored with 23 outright winners, compared with only four by the Czechoslovak.

McEnroe argued repeatedly with umpire Hammond during the first three games. In each instance, Smid left the court to sit down in his chair at the net.

A service break in the second game made the difference in the opening set.

McEnroe, booed by the gallery, began to vent his wrath at court

side spectators in the second set shouting often at several fans.

The set went on service through the first 10 games. But in the 11th McEnroe broke through on two backhand winners, a forehand placement and a Smid error. He then held at 15 to close out the match.

Leconte squandered too many opportunities against Kriek and was never as aggressive as he has been in upsetting the top-seeded Lendl Thursday.

At 5-5 in the first set, the Frenchman wasted seven gamepoints as Kriek broke service and then served out for the set. Leconte squared the match on two service breaks in the second set. But in the third set Kriek capitalised on Leconte's errant backhand and service troubles to win six straight games.

Vilas, at his best on clay, was too steady for McNamee who was passed often as he went to the net and could not sustain any consistency with his groundstrokes.

The Tournament of Champions brings together 42 players who have won at least one tournament, worth at least \$25,000 in the last year.

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China stays on course for seven-title triumph

TOKYO (R) — China stepped up their relentless pursuit of all seven titles at the World Table Tennis Championships as their 14 competitors triumphed in second and third round singles matches here Saturday.

The Chinese were shaken when their world number two Cai Zhenhua almost suffered a shock defeat by unseeded American Danny Seemiller, but he survived to keep his country on course for a repeat of their 1981 seven-title sweep.

Cai was among China's six men who reached the fourth round, while the eight Chinese women breezed through their third round matches.

China were startled when Seemiller took the second and fourth games in a second round match against Cai, who was beaten by compatriot Guo Yuehua in the final two years ago.

But following an umpire's warning to Cai for heavy stamping and a subsequent argument that gave the players a 15-minute breather, Cai turned on the pressure and Seemiller shouted "I threw it" just before going down 21-17.

These were two of the hardest matches we have had to fight," Chinese official said later, while admitting he was well pleased with the results.

The Chinese women's sweep into the fourth round was led by World Champion Tong Ling, a tall 22-year-old member of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

Tong, a graceful but essentially defensive player who wears down her opponents, beat Pia Eliasson

13-21, 21-13, 19-21, 21-16.

Cai also had his problems before beating aggressive South Korean Kim Wan in the third round.

The left-handed Cai seemed almost helpless in the face of the bull-like smashing of Kim and lost the long first two games both 21-19.

Kim almost caught up with Cai at 19-20 in the third, but briefly stroled around the court, took a few deep breaths, then smashed the ball wide to let Cai off the hook.

This gave the Chinese heart and he capitalised on Kim's mistakes to take the next two games 21-16, 21-10.

"These were two of the hardest matches we have had to fight," Chinese official said later, while admitting he was well pleased with the results.

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Tong, a graceful but essentially defensive player who wears down her opponents, beat Pia Eliasson

of Sweden 21-10, 21-13, 22-20 in the second round and eliminated Hungary's Edit Urban 21-11, 21-4, 15-21, 21-19 in the third.

Sweden, considered second in strength in the men's division to China, lost one of their star players when European Champion Michael Appelgren crashed 21-7, 21-8, 21-17 to Japan's Kenichi Sakamoto in the second round.

Sakamoto, who had to qualify, admitted he was lucky and remarked: "It was the first match of the day and maybe his body was still sleeping."

But three Swedes went through to the last 16, including emerging star Jan-Ove Waldner, who beat Hong Kong's tricky Chiu Man Kuen 3-1 in the third round.

The other victorious Swedes were Ulf Carlsson, who beat England's seventh-seeded Desmond Douglas 3-2 in a third round encounter, and 17-year-old Erik Lindh, who toppled North Korea's Chu Jong Chol 3-1.

ITTF selects New Delhi

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Saturday selected New Delhi as the venue for the 1987 World Championships.

ITTF President Roy Evans said. Evans said New Delhi and Seoul had been the only two applicants to host the tournament.

He said Seoul had withdrawn its application in the interests of solidarity.

A senior Chinese sports official said here earlier that Peking was against Seoul but was in favour of New Delhi.

It was already decided that the 1985 championships should be held in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Evans said that Britain, West Germany, the United States and Japan had shown an interest in hosting the 1989 championships.

Taiwan admitted

Evans also said that Taiwan was admitted into ITTF Saturday under the title of the Chinese (Taipei) Table Tennis Association.

Evans told a news conference here that "the Taiwanese would have membership 'in good standing' which did not amount to full membership on voting matters but meant they could take part in all ITTF tournaments including the next championships in Sweden."

He said the vote for Taipei was unanimous by the delegates of 90 ITTF member associations at a meeting in Tokyo.

Evans said the membership was "strongly supported" by China. Peking had previous objections to the title referring to Taiwan or Republic of China, but accepted the new formula which had been worked out in accordance with the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Evans said after the formal ceremony the delegates from China and Taiwan shook hands before cameras.

He said there was no way at the moment of assessing the ability of the Taiwanese table tennis players, "but I understand they are very good and would be first category material."

Evans said that the Taipei association would become full members of the ITTF in two years time.

Rules changed

The ITTF also announced important changes in the rules of the game including introduction of a two-colour ball.

Evans said that from Jan. 1, 1984, bats used in international tournaments will require different colours on each side.

This is to help neutralise the switching from one side of the bat to the other and using different rubber surfaces to produce spin that baffles the receiver.

The ITTF also ruled that deliberate heavy stamping by a player when serving will be illegal and penalty points will be given if a player persists after being warned.

This comes into effect from July 1. Players in future will also be banned from serving with their back towards an opponent or from below the surface of the table, two seemingly impossible tactics which some players still manage to use.

GOVERNMENT TENDERING DIRECTORATE ANNOUNCEMENT SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT MOE - PROJECT No. 4

The central Tendering Committee announces tender of the following school building:-

The General Secondary Vocational School for Boys/ Russiyah (Area 10,000 sq.m.)

All classified contractors for the years (79-82) in the Ministry of Public Works as class "A" general or class "A" buildings, and all international contracting firms registered at the International Bank for Development and Reconstruction are invited to get copies of the tendering documents from the Project Implementation Unit - Ministry of Education (Address: behind the General Security Offices Tel. 661166) against a nonrefundable JD 100 for each copy.

- Last date for obtaining tender documents: Thursday 9.6.1983.
- Last date for submitting tender documents is Thursday 16.6.83, at the Government Tenders Directorate in the Ministry of Public Works Building.

Notes:

1. All tenderers have to submit their offers in two separate envelopes. The first containing their prequalification documents and technical offer including time schedule equipment, previous experience, and work load. The second envelope containing financial offer and the priced bill of quantities.

2. All tenderers have to fill unit prices in the bill of quantities both in numbers and letters.

3. A tender bond of JD 40,000 should be attached to each offer.

Chairman - Central Tendering Committee, Director Government Tenders Directorate.

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ECONOMY

Banks allow Lagos extra time

LONDON (R) — A group of Nigeria's main creditor banks has agreed, reluctantly in some cases, to allow the country extra time to repay \$2 billion of its trading debts, Barclays Bank International said Friday.

OPEC-member Nigeria, buffeted by the world oil glut, appears ready to turn to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for backing of an economic recovery programme and a restoration of international banking confidence.

Negotiations are expected to start in earnest early next week, when an IMF team is due to make its second visit to Lagos in four weeks. Four creditor banks proposed last week that payment of \$2 billion in trade debts be extended over an 18-month period with a six-month grace period at the outset during which interest only will be paid.

Most of Nigeria's creditor banks, numbering over 20, had now responded positively to the proposal, banking sources said, though subject to some revisions upon which the sources did not elaborate.

Nigeria is the third largest debtor in Africa, with a total debt of around \$13 billion at the end of 1982.

Club of Rome meets in Kuwait

KUWAIT (OPECNA) — The Club of Rome meets here Sunday to discuss "cooperation for development", a spokesman of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development said.

The meeting, to be inaugurated by Mr. Abdul Latif Yousef Al Hamad, Kuwait's minister of finance, will look into South-South relations, the problem of food in Third World countries, the future of concessional aid flows and Arab-European cooperation.

The Club of Rome was set up in 1968 in Rome by 30 scientists, educators, economists, industrialists and international civil servants. It has an optimum membership of 100.

OPEC seeks closer ties with Latin American states

QUITO (OPECNA) — The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is seeking closer ties with Latin American oil exporters in the regional energy group OLADE.

Though most of the countries in the two producer groups are also members of OPEC, OLADE includes an important non-OPEC exporter in Mexico and OPEC includes non-OPEC countries Oman, Bahrain and Tunisia.

OPEC Secretary General Ali Attiga is currently here leading an Arab delegation at the invitation of the Ecuadorian government and OLADE, which has its headquarters here.

Mr. Attiga said he was optimistic crude oil producers and exporters could strengthen their ties in order to overcome the world economic crisis and the "critical situation" of prices on the international oil market.

"I believe that everybody has learned from this situation," said Mr. Attiga.

Contacts between OPEC and OLADE have hitherto been sporadic, though the aims of the two organisations, Mr. Attiga described as "sisters", are similar.

"We hope that the discussions held here will permit us to find common ground for cooperation in oil and energy," said the OPEC secretary general.

It is envisaged the two organisations could work together on economic studies, energy planning — particularly hydrocarbons — and research on new sources of energy.

Spain proposing gas link with Algeria and Nigeria

LONDON (OPECNA) — A proposal for a natural gas pipeline linking Algeria and Nigeria with Europe is to be put before a meeting of the International Energy Agency in Paris this weekend, according to the Financial Times.

The paper reports that the idea will be launched by Spain, through whose territory the pipeline would pass, after crossing the Straits of Gibraltar from Morocco.

The gas link would provide a possible alternative to the controversial Soviet-West European gas pipeline, notes the paper.

However, it states that only by gaining access to Nigeria's enormous reserves could the project be a full-fledged rival to the Siberian pipeline.

Nigeria has proven natural gas reserves of 1,147 billion cu.m.

Unemployment in U.K., U.S. falls

LONDON (R) — Unemployment in Britain fell slightly last month for the third month in a row, the government reported Friday.

The department of employment said the number of jobless in April fell 2,511 to 3,169,879 — representing 13.3 per cent of the nation's workforce.

The drop is a fillip for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher as she contemplates calling a general election next month.

Opposition critics are convinced the jobless figures will rise again in the second half of this year and that Mrs. Thatcher wants to run for a second term before the situation worsens.

Experts attributed the drop mainly to seasonal factors, saying there were more jobs in the construction and tourist industries as summer approached.

In Washington, the U.S. unemployment rate dropped one-tenth of a percentage point in April to 10.2 per cent, leaving more than 11.3 million workers still without jobs, the Labour Department reported Friday.

The modest improvement in the labour market last month supported the general view that the unemployment rate, which peaked at 10.8 per cent at the end of 1982, is receding slowly as the economic recovery from recession proceeds.

Details of the department's report revealed some healthy developments for the U.S. labour force.

Civilian employment rose by 355,000 last month to 99.46 million, following several months when the figure remained unchanged.

The number of manufacturing jobs increased to 18.36 million in April from 18.28 million in March, and factory employees worked longer hours.

Most economists believe the labour market will improve only very gradually, because they say businesses will probably try to increase productivity as much as possible by having existing staff work a longer week rather than take on new employees.

The department's report showed the average week for factory workers lengthened to 40.1 hours in April from 39.6 in March.

The number of workers on non-farm payrolls rose by 258,000 to 89.2 million in April, which represents an increase of 650,000 since last December.

Despite these moderate improvements, the number of Americans without jobs is still well above the 7.6 million figure recorded in 1980, the year President Reagan entered the White House.

But the U.S. economy has displayed enough vigour recently to convince most economists that a recovery is in progress.

Indonesia cuts major projects

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia said Saturday it was postponing four major industrial projects costing about \$5 billion to ease pressure on its growing balance of payments deficit.

Coordinating minister for finance and industry Mr. Ali Wardhana told reporters that the country would save about \$4 billion in foreign exchange by "re-phasing" the four projects in the oil and petrochemical industries which need a large amount of imported components.

The cut back follows a sharp decline in Indonesia's oil revenues after a \$5 a barrel cut in the official Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil price earlier this year.

In a bid to stem a flight of capital abroad and narrow the trade gap, Indonesia, Asia's only OPEC member, also devalued its currency by 27.5 per cent on March 30.

Mr. Wardhana said that in the fiscal year 1983/84 the government would spend only \$1 billion instead of \$5 billion on the four projects — an oil refinery, and plants to produce aromatics, alumina and olefins plant.

Brazil's inflation soars to 117%

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil's annual inflation rate soared to 117.4 per cent in April from 109.7 per cent in March, the highest level for almost two years, according to official figures released Friday.

Inflation peaked at 121.2 per cent in March 1981, fell gradually to 95.1 per cent last October, then climbed again.

A 23 per cent devaluation of the cruzeiro in February raised prices of imported goods and contributed to a record 10.2 per cent inflation in March. April inflation was 9.2 per cent compared with 5.4 per cent in April 1982.

The government has set a target of 85-90 per cent for inflation in 1983, part of its economic programme worked out with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in exchange for \$5.4 billion of loans over three years.

Dutch unions take to time off

AMSTERDAM — The Dutch cost of living index system, granting workers automatic wage rises to compensate for inflation, was once held to be the 11th commandment in the Calvinist system of Dutch morality.

Last year, the biggest trade union federation in the Netherlands declared itself totally opposed to any attempt to de-anonise the system.

Yet today its sanctity has gone — and the unions have accepted in its stead the right to shorter working hours, a trend which could spread all over Europe.

Short-time working, viewed until recently merely as a barometer of economic recession, is now increasingly seen as a means of making that recession tolerable to the greatest number.

And as the concept of the age of leisure gains currency in the trade union movement, the idea of spreading less work around more people seems poised to assume a permanent place in industrial practice.

The drive towards shorter working hours and lower wage rises in the Netherlands has been pushed forward by two factors — the necessity for public spending cuts to improve the state of the economy,

and the alarming increase in unemployment.

The government, a centre-right coalition of Christian Democrats and Liberals which took office only last November, has platform of rigid economic austerity, with wage moderation as a main plank.

Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, had warned that the extent of public spending cuts to be imposed would in part depend on pay settlements.

If moderation was not achieved, even more would be pruned from state budgets than the planned FL 13 billion (\$4.7 billion) later increased to FL 15 billion.

The Dutch economy is in trouble principally because of falling prices for the country's most valuable export, natural gas, but company profits are sharply down, as the level of world trade, on which the Netherlands depends more than most countries, continues to stagnate.

There have been some tentative signs that an improvement may be seen soon, but the effects of the recession are likely to be felt for a considerable time to come.

In addition, unemployment in the Netherlands is increasing at a faster rate than anywhere else in the European community.

In March, 769,200 people were out of work — 16.5 per cent of the workforce.

By the end of the year, the total could be more than 900,000.

So far, almost half the sectorally-organised Dutch workforce has accepted reduced hours in return for non-payment of indexed pay rises.

Talks are still in progress concerning another 300,000 workers, while 384,000 have insisted on being paid their indexed rise.

The latter group, included 260,000 building workers, who traditionally drive a hard bargain. Talks are expected to resume over increases due later in the year, however.

Most of the major companies and unions that have agreed to reductions in hours have accepted a working week of 36 hours on a graduated basis. The metal workers and the print workers have taken this popular route.

In most cases, there are provisions for early retirement and the training and eventual employment of the young.

It is also intended that as soon as companies are in a position to do so, they should take on more workers to fill the 5 per cent vacuum established by the reduced working week.

However, the unions felt this was too extreme and the government objected to the cost, so 1,150 men are due to join the dole queues later this year.

— Financial Times news feature

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MAY 8, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An interesting day when you can develop beneficial ideas and make plans to have more abundance in the months ahead. Be alert to new opportunities coming your way.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Make better plans for the future and talk them over with friends. Allow time to attend the services of your choice.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have a good idea on how to have more income in the future, but make sure it is a practical plan. Express happiness.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Listen carefully to the ideas and suggestions of friends. Daytime is best for social get-togethers. Relax at home tonight.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A good day to use your intuition, which is accurate now. Do some meditating and make the future brighter.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) A good day to visit places and obtain the data you need in a new business venture. Show others that you have wisdom.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Take the time to plan your career activities more wisely so you can get good results later. Use diplomacy with family members.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Handle any civic matter that arises in a clever way. Have conversations with clever persons who can give you good advice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Good day to show gratitude to one who has done you favors in the past. Show others that you are a clever person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Engage in new activities that will improve your health and appearance. A new outlet can increase your income.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Situations at home require your immediate attention. Make long-range plans that could give more security in the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Attend the services of your choices and gain increased happiness. A close tie can give the assistance you need at this time.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Make plans for the future that will increase your income. Consult a business expert for proper advice in a business deal.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be endowed with engineering qualities and the education should be directed in that field. Much success is possible here upon reaching maturity. Religious and ethical training early in life is a must.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword

By James R. Bums

ACROSS	27 Bed	49 Worst of	22 Network
1 Was an	28 A Maugham	53 prunes?	25 of fibers
agent	32 Rain for	56 Relaxed	26 Some tea
6 Initial	37 cabbles?	56 Practice	26 Not —
advantage	36 Summer Fr.	57 husbandry	28 Add fuel
10 A Reiner	37 Fibbed	57 Seance	29 Hardens
14 Desert	38 Sault Sta.	58 response	30 Needle case
succulents	Marie,	58 Upward	31 Circus
15 Declare	lor short	59 mobility in	32 "big top"
16 Butterine	39 Slugely	60 San Fran-	32 Cold loss
17 D'Astagnan	40 Miss Lupino	60 cisco?	33 Stalf
companion	41 Bus break-	60 Glattie's	34 Bring up
18 Member of	down for	62 Cut short	35 Songwrit-
ladies'	Gloria	63 Gait	35 Bank rec-
tag team?	Mnnday?	64 Saltpeper	39 Cookie
20 Cpl. or	45 Cast of	65 Sunburns	41 Plunge
sgt.	characters	66 Wise man	42 Bugs
21 — coda	47 Actress	67 Grinding	43 German
23 Ancient	Merkel	67 compound	43 industrial
Italian	48 Point of		44 valley
24 Prespers-	ercent		44 Finwar
26 Unstalling	moon		48 Ovarcharges

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78

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THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

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"He stuck his finger in a light socket. Ironically, it happened while he was lecturing me about male superiority."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Hans Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FLATA

TOBAB

INTADE

ENBATE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: CROAK FOLIO EYELID KNIGHT

Answer: What a person who thinks by the yard and does by the inch might get — KICKED BY THE FOOT

Peanuts

Mutt 'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

WORLD

U.N. to hear Nicaraguan case

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council decided Friday night to meet on Monday to hear renewed Nicaraguan charges of aggression by U.S.-backed guerrillas based in Honduras.

It will be the second time in less than two months that the Council has been summoned into urgent session to deal with the Central American crisis.

But unlike the previous debate, largely confined to a show of verbal support by Managua's Third World and communist friends, Nicaragua is expected to press this time for the introduction and adoption of a resolution.

As one of the Council's five permanent members, the United States could use its veto to kill any unacceptable draft that mustered the nine votes needed for adoption.

Nicaragua asked for the debate after President Reagan referred to guerrillas opposed to the left-wing government there as "freedom fighters" and criticised moves in Congress to deprive them of U.S. aid.

In its request on Thursday Nicaragua said it hoped the 15-nation peace-keeping body would be able to "devise specific ways of helping to resolve a situation" which, if allowed to continue, would endanger international peace and security.

Nicaragua alleged earlier this week that some 1,200 U.S.-trained "somocista mercenaries" — supporters of the late dictator Anastasio Somoza — launched a new invasion of its territory from nei-

ghbouring Honduras, aided by Honduran troops.

The foreign minister of Nicaragua, Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, is expected to open Monday's debate.

American U.N. representative Jeane Kirkpatrick, regarded as one of the architects of U.S. Latin American policy, was returning to New York over the weekend from a four-day speaking trip. It was not known whether she would also address the session.

U.S. covert operations on till at least Sept. 30

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate intelligence committee voted Friday to allow U.S. covert operations in Nicaragua to continue at least until Sept. 30.

Arizona Republican Barry Goldwater, the committee chairman, said the Republican-dominated panel would also direct President Reagan to give Congress a clearer description of his purposes in Central America in order to win approval of any covert operation there after that date.

The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives intelligence committee approved a bill on Tuesday that would halt U.S. covert operations in Nicaragua.

If the full Senate and House accept the contrasting bills offered by the two committees, a conference would then have to work out a compromise for final approval by Congress.

Extradition of Chilean general's killer requested

WASHINGTON (R) — Argentina has formally asked the U.S. government to extradite American Michael Townley, sentenced in 1979 for the killing of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier, diplomatic sources said.

Argentine judge Oscar Mario Salsi had earlier requested Townley's extradition, alleging he was responsible for the assassination of Chilean army General Carlos Prats and his wife in Buenos Aires in 1974.

Papers formally requesting the extradition were lodged with the State Department Friday, the diplomatic sources said. The department declined to comment on the matter.

Townley was jailed for 40 months to 10 years in 1979 for killing Mr. Letelier and his American research aide, Ronnie Moffitt. Both died when their car was blown up in Washington in September 1976.

U.S. government sources said Townley finished serving the sentence this week but remained in protective custody at an undisclosed location.

The sources said he was also being held on a pending, lesser

charge, on which he would probably be arraigned in Washington next week, but did not elaborate.

The next step in extradition proceedings would be for the State Department to pass the request to the Justice Department.

Townley would then be taken before a U.S. judge, who would decide whether he should be extradited. This could happen next week when he is arraigned on the lesser charge.

Townley is in protective custody under an agreement with the U.S. government in return for his testimony in the Letelier case.

The Argentine judge has alleged that a condition was set at Townley's trial not to question him about the Prats case in return for his guilty plea in the Letelier murder.

Gen. Prats and his wife, Sofia Cuthbert, were killed when their car blew up on Sept. 30, 1974, in Buenos Aires, where they lived in exile.

Gen. Prats had been appointed Chilean army commander by the late President Salvador Allende and left for Argentina shortly after Gen. Augusto Pinochet deposed Mr. Allende in a 1973 coup.

Spanish socialists set to win municipal elections

MADRID (R) — Spain's ruling Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) is expected to score a decisive victory in municipal elections Sunday.

Major political parties held their final campaign rallies Friday night and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez made his first and last public contribution to the socialists' campaign when he appeared on television.

Recent opinion polls have forecast that the socialists will equal the 46 per cent vote they won in last October's general elections while the right-wing Popular Alliance (AP) opposition party could slip from 25.3 per cent to 20.

This would leave the socialists in command of most of the 13 regional parliaments to be elected.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Q.—I have a problem when I have ten cards in two suits divided 6-4. Should I rebid my six-card suit before showing my four-card suit, or should I always treat my hand as a two-suiter? Your advice would be appreciated.
—J. Peres, Miami, Fla.

[This question has been awarded the weekly prize.]
A.—It depends on a number of factors. Is your six-card suit a major or a minor? At what level can you introduce your suits? What is the quality of your suits? How strong is your hand?

Here are some general principles that might help you resolve your problem. If your six-card suit is a minor and your four-card suit is a major, always show the major if you can do so at the one-level. However, if you have to go to the two-level to introduce your major and your hand is not strong enough for a reverse bid, content yourself with a rebid of your minor.

If the six-card suit is a major and the four-card suit is a minor, the strength of your hand should determine your course of action. If you opened a minimum, it is generally a sound policy to rebid your six-card major. If your hand is stronger than minimum, you are more likely to get some sign of life from partner if you introduce a second suit.

However, if you have a poor six-card major and a strong second suit, it might be advisable to show your second suit for lead-directional purposes in case

you don't buy the hand. In other words, treat the hand as if it were 5-4 instead of 6-4. For example:

a) ♠Ax b) ♠Ax
c) ♠xxxx d) ♠Jxxxx
e) ♠KJx f) ♠Kxxx
g) ♠x h) ♠x

Assume that you open one heart and partner responds one spade. With hand a) I would rebid two diamonds, treating my hearts as if they were only five cards. With hand b), however, I would rebid two hearts to stress the length and quality of my major suit.

Let's make another slight change:

i) ♠Axjxxx o) ♠Axqx xx
p) ♠Axjxxx q) ♠Axqx xx

This time, I would rebid two diamonds, despite the fact that I have a reasonably good six-card major. Should partner then give me a simple heart preference, I could show my extra strength by making a game try with a bid of three hearts. Note that partner will be ideally placed to decide whether to accept or reject knowing that I have six hearts and four diamonds. Red-suit values will be worth their weight in gold, while black-suit honors can be discounted.

Q.—I saw a rerun of a "Tonight" program on which you discussed bridge. I was very impressed with your ideas on the game.—L. Williams, White Plains, N.Y.
A.—Thank you. The game has given me a lot of pleasure and satisfaction, and if I can convert some TV watchers to this fascinating pastime, I will be repaying only a fraction of the enjoyment I have derived from bridge over the years.

23 films compete at Cannes film festival

CANNES, France (R) — Twenty-three films compete for the coveted Golden Palm award at the Cannes international film festival Saturday.

Festival director Gilles Jacob has seen over 300 movies to pick the 23 in the final contest. They include pictures by American, Australian, French, Italian and Spanish directors.

"Many of the films I saw gave an impression of tremendous disillusion with the world and in certain cases even a doubt as to the future of man," said Mr. Jacob.

He said that to balance some of the more serious themes the festival would show the latest film by the British Monty Python comedy team, "The Meaning of Life," in the competition.

The 36th Cannes festival has left the traditional venue at the Palais des Croisettes for the new Palais near the old port amid a certain amount of confusion.

It was not clear Friday if all would be ready when the curtain goes up Saturday on "the king of comedy," directed by American Martin Scorsese, who won the Golden Palm in 1976 for "Taxi Driver".

Four French films are competing, including "L'argent" by Robert Bresson, a moral tale about corruption shot through with half-concealed violence.

Australia is represented by two film-makers, Bruce Beresford with "Tender Mercies" and "The Year of Living Dangerously" by Peter Weir, both made and financed outside Australia.

Italy has "Camina, Camina" by Ermanno Olmi, who won the Golden Palm with "Tree of Clogs". The latest film by Federico Fellini has been hit by labor strikes in Italy, but Marco Ferreri will be competing with "Storia de Piera," the strange tale of an Italian family.

Mr. Jacob said he was sure that "Carmen" by Spaniard Carlos Saura would be a success and would reveal a great new actress, Laura Del Sol.

The jury, presided over by American writer William Styron, includes Soviet director Sergei Bondarchuk, French cameraman Henri Alekan, Egyptian director Youssef Shahn and British director Karel Reisz.

Police stop Walesa en route to Warsaw

WARSAW (R) — Lech Walesa, leader of Poland's banned Solidarity union, was prevented from driving to Warsaw from his home in Gdansk Friday, his secretary said Saturday.

Bozena Rybicka, contacted by telephone, said Mr. Walesa tried to travel to the capital with a group of friends to meet some people here but was stopped by the authorities and returned home at 4 a.m. Saturday.

At the same time unconfirmed reports in Warsaw said Bronislaw Geremek, a senior Solidarity adviser since the union's inception in 1980, was detained at his Warsaw home Friday night.

Reliable reports in Warsaw also said Tadeusz Mazowiecki, 56, founding editor of the banned union's newspaper Tygodnik Solidarnosc and a leading figure in Solidarity's leadership, was picked up by police Friday night.

Nominee for environment protection agency approved

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate Environment Committee Friday unanimously approved William Ruckelshaus to be administrator of the troubled Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and sent the nomination to the full Senate.

Committee Chairman Robert Stafford, a Vermont Republican, said he hoped the full Senate would confirm Mr. Ruckelshaus early next week.

Mr. Ruckelshaus, the first EPA administrator from 1970 to 1973, was named by President Reagan to succeed Anne Burford after she resigned following charges of mismanagement and unethical behavior in the agency's toxic waste clean-up programme.

By Ralph Boulton

FURTH IM WALDE, West Germany (R) — The winding, forested frontiers of Czechoslovakia are becoming a popular escape route for East Germans bent on reaching the West.

Bavarian officials say East Germans facing new and deadlier barriers on their own frontiers seem to be seeking easier paths across the territory of their Soviet-bloc neighbor.

"The number of East Germans arriving here has risen by leaps and bounds in the last six months. We will just have to see how this develops," local border police chief Eberhard Pilz told Reuters.

The Czechoslovak and German frontiers mark the meeting point of the world's two great military blocs, the Warsaw Pact and the NATO alliance. But the barbed wire and mines that divide the two German states give way to unblemished green valleys and woods at the Czechoslovak border.

Bavarian youths sometimes crown a Saturday night's revelry with a foray past the ancient stones marking the border and into the arms of Czechoslovak guards.

"The Czechoslovaks are angered by such incidents, of course. But they are very correct about it and the offenders are handed back the next day," a Bavarian guard said.

Less triggerhappy

"On the zone (inter-German) frontier it could lead to a serious incident. Things are certainly more humane here and they are less inclined to shoot," he added.

But the rural tranquility ends at a dark strip of fortifications three kilometers beyond the marker stones, just visible through field glasses. Prague shares East Berlin's fear of its citizens fleeing.

Before climbing a double, two-metre (six-foot) fence, the would-be escaper must cross a mesh of trip wires linked to flare rockets. If he triggers one, border guards are ferried at high speed to the marker stones to await his arrival.

The Czechoslovaks have not renewed their fortifications since they drew them away from Western view 10 years ago. But they have lately shown signs of alarm as the number of successful escape bids has risen.

Three weeks ago, 250 Czechoslovak soldiers descended on a small area when a former security official made a bolt for the West with a friend. The escape came

Hijacking case prompts first-ever direct talks between Seoul, Peking

SEOUL (R) — South Korea and China Saturday completed the first round of direct talks they have ever held, discussing the hijacking of a Chinese airliner to South Korea.

The senior Chinese delegate, Shen Tu, director-general of the civil aviation administration of China, shook hands with Assistant Foreign Minister Gong Ro-Myung as the two nine-member delegations began negotiations at a Seoul hotel.

South Korean government officials said they agreed on an agenda for the talks on Thursday's

hijacking of the plane which was carrying 103 people.

The first item to be considered was the return of the 96 passengers and crew and the freight, the officials said. Later the two teams will discuss the return of the plane and the fate of the hijackers, five men and a woman.

Mr. Shen made it clear at a press conference when he arrived Saturday that China wanted the hijackers returned along with the passengers, crew and plane.

He described the hijackers — who fired eight pistol shots to overcome the crew in a bid to seek asylum in Taiwan — as "armed mobsters."

The meeting adjourned after agreement on the agenda and the Chinese delegation left for a military hospital to see the navigator and radio operator of the Trident airliner who were wounded in the legs during the mid-air struggle.

The officials said the delegation would then visit the passengers and other crew.

South Korea has said the hijackers will be dealt with according to international laws on air piracy despite pleas from Taiwan that their asylum request be granted.

Seoul can comply with international regulations by returning them to Peking or by putting them on trial here.

All quiet on the Sino-Vietnamese border

DONG DANG BORDER POST, Vietnam (R) — A border conflict between China and Vietnam may not be as serious as a recent barrage of communiques from both governments indicate, according to Western diplomats in Vietnam.

All is now peaceful at this empty frontier town in Lang Son Province, 180 kilometres north-east of Hanoi, that was smashed by a Chinese incursion in 1979.

Both sides are making as much political mileage as possible out of the current tension and it appears that more words than shells have been exchanged," one diplomat, told Reuters in Hanoi.

Two envoys who had a picnic here on April 16 were surprised to return to Hanoi and read a government statement saying that thousands of Chinese shells had landed on the province, including Dong Dang, to touch off the most recent series of clashes. The border post was and still is quiet.

Vietnamese peasants are planting rice in paddy fields that stretch up to China. They do it under cover of Vietnamese long-range 130mm Soviet-built guns, placed on small hills around the paddies. But all the artillery pieces in sight have their barrels shrouded.

Children tend grazing buffalo near this deserted post, which has been a ghost town since the Chinese army rolled through it four years ago.

Vietnamese troops, many of them young conscripts, relax around their observation posts, taking turns to gaze through binoculars at Chinese radar positions atop mist-covered hills two kilometres away.

They say the area is dangerous, but it does not appear to be and the soldier do not act as if they really believe it is dangerous. However, a military spokesman, Col. Nghiem Tuc, said that since April 16 Chinese artillery had shelled four of Vietnam's six border provinces, killing 57 civilians and wounding 20.

Western and Asian diplomats in Hanoi say they do not believe a Chinese invasion is imminent, pointing out that the Chinese side of the border is still manned by militia and local army divisions for a depth of 50 kilometres.

They say the regular Chinese divisions that would make up an invasion force remain behind the 50 kilometre zone and have not been called up.

The Vietnamese have strengthened their defences to create "a line of no penetration", as Col. Tuc calls it, some kilometres from the frontier. There 11 regular army divisions are on standby, compared with the four divisions that were stationed in the area in 1979.

Iran allegedly purges armed forces

PARIS (R) — The Iranian authorities have started a purge of the armed forces, a group of dissident Iranian pilots and officers have said in Paris.

The four men told a news conference organised Friday by the left-wing People's Mujahedin guerrilla group that the Islamic leaders had launched the campaign because they blame growing opposition among air force, navy and army officers for the failure of the latest Iranian offensive against Iraq.

"The authorities have arrested hundreds of officers and transferred many more to safe guardhouses," said one of the officers who identified himself as Homafar (a rank in the Iranian air force).

Fereidoon Varmazyari.

He said military opposition to the Islamic republic had intensified after Massoud Rajavi, exiled leader of the Mujahedin, called on all officers to withdraw their support for Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"Many officers have already refused to go to the battlefield because they are no longer prepared to cooperate in a war which is against the interests of the people and the country and which only serves the interests of Khomeini," Varmazyari said.

"The Islamic leaders have been forced to rely on revolutionary guards and to mobilise teenagers, sending them on mine-sweeping missions," he said.

Second-Lieutenant Ali Hamed Ranji said the Islamic authorities had put eight air force officers on trial who were charged with organising the flight of former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and Massoud Rajavi in July 1981.

They have also issued directives limiting fuel supply to military aircraft and the Majlis (parliament) has passed a law banning members of the armed forces from taking part in international events outside Iran, he said.

The four men said they had left their country to escape "arrest, torture and execution" but were kept informed by other officers supporting the People's Mujahedin.

Tamil guerrillas disrupt local elections

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's ruling United National Party (UNP) will continue campaigning in local government elections in the troubled northern district of Jaffna despite attacks on its candidates by separatist guerrillas.

A senior cabinet minister said Saturday.

Guerrillas seeking a separate state for the minority Tamils in northern and eastern provinces shot dead two UNP candidates and a prominent party member last week.

After the killings the outlawed guerrillas movement sent letters threatening to kill other UNP candidates in Jaffna.

Four local bodies in Jaffna are among 50 municipal and urban councils throughout the country for which elections will be held on May 18 and 20.

Fisheries Minister Festus Perera who led a party delegation to Jaffna Friday to check the situation there told Reuters: "The UNP will not withdraw from the elections despite the actions of the terrorists."

Mr. Perera said the delegation asked the police and army to intensify security arrangements in the area and to give candidates more protection.

Police sources said candidates threatened by guerrillas may be

allowed to carry guns to protect themselves.

The UNP, headed by President Junius Jayewardene, draws its strongest support from southern Sri Lanka which is dominated by the majority Sinhalese people.

Mr. Jayewardene has said his government will not allow the country to be divided into Tamil and Sinhalese states.

The UNP's main rival in the Jaffna elections is the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) which is spearheading the campaign for a separate Tamil state. It has denied any links with the guerrillas and dissociated itself from the killings.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Freed kidnapper looks for work

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — One of the kidnappers of newspaper heiress Patty Hearst has been released from prison and is looking for work, his lawyer said. He is William Harris, whose wife Emily was also a member of the radical group which organised the kidnapping in 1974. She is expected to be released on May 27, lawyer Stuart Hamon said in San Francisco. Harris, 37, and his wife, 35, were sentenced on Oct. 2, 1978, to 10 years to life imprisonment for their admitted part in the kidnapping. They were already serving an 11-year sentence for a 1976 conviction.

Bonn to deport imprisoned Libyan

BONN (R) — A Libyan sentenced to life imprisonment in 1980 for the murder of a former Libyan diplomat in Bonn is being deported, the convicted man's lawyer said Friday. Elmida Bashir Elmida, 29, who was jailed for shooting former Libyan Second Secretary Omran Mehawi in a Bonn pedestrian subway, would be sent back to Libya on Sunday, his lawyer Klaus Kugler said. Elmida had been pressing for deportation, he said, and the judicial authorities in North Rhine Westphalia had agreed.

French court refuses to ban book

PARIS (R) — A French court Saturday refused to ban a book alleging a former government minister, accused of wartime crimes against humanity, was zealous in rounding up Jews for deportation to Germany. Maurice Papon, 72, was charged in Bordeaux in January with involvement in the deportation to Nazi death camps of 1,700 Jews while he was a senior wartime French official in the region. He denied the charges which are being investigated by a judge who will decide whether he should face trial. His lawyers said publication of the book, "The Papon affair" by Michel Sliouky, was intolerable while the case was pending.

Chilean army shows up near mines

SANTIAGO (R) — The Chilean copper workers' union, which has called a one-day general strike for next Wednesday, said Friday there was increased military activity around the country's major mines with heavy weapons on show. A communiqué from the copper workers said heavy guns and mortars had been displayed near the northern Chuquibambilla mine and a tank on a transporter had driven through the streets of Rancagua near the El Teniente mine just south of the capital.

Balanchine leaves \$869,000 estate

NEW YORK (R) — Choreographer George Balanchine, who died last week aged 79, left an estimated \$869,000 estate, according to his will presented for probate Friday at the Manhattan surrogate's court. In the 1978 will Russian-born Balanchine left a brother, Andre Balanchine who lives in the Soviet republic of Georgia, two gold watches and no other bequests. Jerome Robbins, an American choreographer who often worked with Balanchine and is one of the two people who succeeded him as the artistic director of the New York City Ballet, was left the royalty rights to the ballet "Firebird" and "Pulcinella". The bulk of the remaining estate, including rights to 37 other ballets, was left equally to two women friends, Barbara Horgan and Karin Gewirtz.

Air crash victim's family awarded \$7m

NEW YORK (R) — The family of a Taiwan-born physician was awarded \$7 million for his death in the worst air disaster in the United States. Shuren, Lin 42, a leading neuro-radiologist at the Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York, was survived by his wife and four children aged five to 19.